

REMARKS

By this Amendment Applicants have amended claims 1-11. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fan in view of Chow. Applicants respectfully traverse this Section 103(a) rejection.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 are independent claims. Claims 2 and 5 are dependent on claim 1, claims 4, 9 and 10 are dependent on claim 3; and claims 7, 8 and 11 are dependent on claim 6.

Turning first to claim 1, it is directed to a telephone apparatus including the following elements:

- an information detector for detecting transmitted caller information,
- an operation unit for specifying **caller group information** which relates to the caller information,
- a memory for storing caller information and related **caller group information**,
- a display unit, and
- **a controller**, the controller displays the caller information in the display unit and **searches the memory, and when the transmitted caller information coincides with caller information in the**

memory, the caller group information which relates to the transmitted caller information is identified and displayed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the telephone apparatus of claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2 and 5, is patentably distinguished from the Fan and Chow Patents, at least on the basis of the feature that the controller searches the memory, and when the transmitted caller information coincides with caller information in the memory, the controller identifies and displays the caller group information which relates to the transmitted caller information (hereinafter referred to as the "Caller Group Information Feature" of Applicant's claimed invention). In other words, the Fan and Chow Patents do not teach or suggest the Caller Group Information Feature of Applicants' claimed invention.

The Fan Patent in general concerns a calling party identifying apparatus which is connected to an exchange system and provides the calling party telephone number. The calling party identifying apparatus of Fan includes a receiver, a microprocessor, a memory, a LCD, a keypad, a plurality of lights, and a speaker. The memory has a database which includes potential caller information identifying the specific caller's name, the calling party telephone number, a "preference degree" and the preferred hours for the caller to call. But nowhere in the Fan Patent is there any teaching or suggestion of the feature of Applicants' claimed invention that when the transmitted caller information coincides with caller information in the memory, caller group information is identified with the caller and this caller group information is displayed.

As Applicants explain in the subject application, this caller group information can identify the caller as a family member, a business associate and so on. This feature is simply not taught or suggested in the Fan Patent. In point of fact, Applicants interpret the statement at page 3 of the Official Action that "Fan

does not explicitly show forming priority groupings of calls” as an understanding that the Caller Group Information Feature is not taught by the Fan Patent. It is Applicants’ contention that the Chow Patent does not rectify this deficiency of the Fan Patent.

In general, the Chow Patent concerns an apparatus for routing incoming telephone calls to a telephone or an automatic answering device. In the apparatus of Chow, caller identification numbers are received, compared to stored caller identification numbers, and arranged into priority groups for handling such calls. But the priority groups merely prioritize a call so as to determine the order in which calls will be answered. It is Applicants’ contention that one skilled in the art reading the Chow Patent would not consider Applicants’ invention wherein caller group information is identified and displayed. That is to say, the Chow Patent just concerns prioritizing calls, there is no suggestion or teaching in the Chow Patent that would make one in the Fan Patent consider the feature of associating a caller with caller group information and displaying such call group information. To combine the Fan and Chow Patents and contend that they teach Applicants’ invention as set forth in claim 1 is nothing more than hindsight reconstruction of Applicants’ claimed invention.

It is black letter law that a prima facie case of obviousness is established only when the teaching from the prior art itself appears to have suggested the claimed subject matter to one skilled in the art. In re Rijckaert, 9 F.3d, 1531, 1532 (Fed. Cir., 1993). Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teaching of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some suggestion or incentive supporting the combination. In re Bond, 910 F.2d, 831, 834 (Fed. Cir., 1990). *Accord*, In re Rouffet, 1998 U.S. App. Lexis, 16414 (Pfizer, 1998). The requisite suggestion or incentive for combining the teaching of these two references to

achieve Applicants' claimed invention is simply not found in either of the references. The Chow Patent merely concerns prioritizing calls and there is nothing in that patent that would lead one to combine it with the Fan Patent to achieve Applicants' claimed invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2 and 5 are patentably distinguished from the Fan and Chow Patents.

Independent claim 3 concerns a telephone apparatus and includes a feature similar to the Caller Group Information Feature discussed with respect to claim 1. Therefore Applicants' submit that claim 3 and dependent claims 4, 9 and 10 are likewise patentably distinguished over the Fan and Chow Patents for the reasons stated above.

Independent claim 6 concerns a telephone apparatus and includes the following features:

- a plurality of sub units,
- an information detector for detecting transmitted caller information,
- a caller information memory for storing the caller information detected by the information detector,
- **a response information memory for storing the sub unit information of the sub unit answering the call and the caller information detected by the information detector,**
- a sub unit specifying caller information memory for storing the sub unit information and the caller information detected by the information detector when the answering sub unit specifies such information, and

- a controller, wherein the controller, when detecting that the caller information stored in the sub unit specifying caller information memory coincides with the caller information detected by the information detector, calls a sub unit corresponding to the sub unit information being read out from the sub unit specifying caller information memory.

It is Applicants' position that the telephone apparatus of claim 6 is patentably distinguished from the Fan and Chow Patents at least on the basis of the requirement of a response information memory that stores the sub unit information of the sub unit answering the call and the caller information detected by the information detector. This feature is not taught in the Fan Patent. In fact, Applicants note that in page 6 of the Official Action where the Examiner sets forth his position as to the teaching of the Fan Patent relative to claim 6, there is simply no mention of the response information memory feature of Applicants' claimed invention. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion of this response information memory feature in the Chow Patent. Since both the Fan and Chow Patents lack the response information memory feature of Applicants' claimed invention, they cannot either individually or in combination teach or suggest the telephone apparatus of claim 6, as well as that set forth in dependent claims 7, 8 and 11.

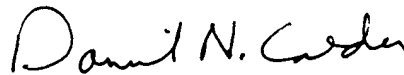
Applicants also note that claim 7 is further distinguished from the Fan and Chow Patents based on the feature that the controller, when judging that the caller information stored in the sub unit specifying caller information memory does not coincide with the caller information detected by the information detector in the case of an incoming call, calls all of the sub units. This feature, like the feature noted above with respect to claim 6, is simply not taught or suggested in either the Fan or

Chow Patents. Thus dependent claim 7 is further distinguished from these references of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1-11 should be withdrawn.

In view of Applicants' remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,



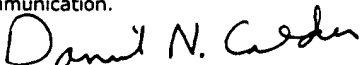
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Enclosure: Version With Markings Showing Changes Made
Petition for Extension of Time

Dated: March 22, 2002

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<p>The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.</p> 	<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:</p> <p>March 22, 2002</p>
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Amended) A telephone apparatus comprising:
2 an information detector for detecting ~~a~~-transmitted caller's information,
3 an operation unit for specifying a caller group ~~of the caller's~~ information
4 which relates to the caller information,
5 a memory for storing ~~the caller's~~ information and ~~specified~~ related caller
6 group information,
7 a display unit, and
8 a controller, ~~wherein~~ said controller displays the caller's information in said
9 display unit, and searches ~~the information in~~ said memory, and when the
10 transmitted caller information coincides with caller information in the memory,
11 ~~finding the information coinciding with the caller's information,~~ the caller's caller
12 group information which relates to the transmitted caller information is ~~shown in~~
13 ~~said display unit so as to identify the group of the caller's information~~ identified and
14 displayed.

1 2. (Amended) The telephone apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a dial signal generator for generating a dial signal, and
3 a transmission operation unit for instructing transmission of the dial signal,
4 wherein said controller, when making a call, reads out ~~a~~-caller's information
5 in a specified group from said memory and displays in said display unit on the basis

6 of the operation of said operation unit, and generates a dial signal of telephone
7 number included in the caller's information displayed in said display unit on the
8 basis of the instruction of said transmission operation unit.

1 3. (Amended) A telephone apparatus comprising:

2 an information detector for detecting ~~a~~-transmitted caller's information,

3 an operation unit for ~~instructing~~ registration of ~~the~~ caller's group
4 information which relates to the caller information,

5 a memory for storing ~~a specified~~ caller's information and related caller
6 group information,

7 a display unit,

8 a light source for emitting ~~plural~~ a plurality of color lights for illuminating
9 said display unit, and

10 a controller for controlling said light source,

11 wherein said light source emits a first color light when the caller's
12 information detected by said information detector coincides with the caller's
13 information stored in said memory and, said controller causes the identification and
14 display of said caller group information, and said light source emits a second color
15 light when the caller's information detected by said information detector does not
16 coincide with ~~the~~ caller's information stored in said memory .

1 4. (Amended) The telephone apparatus of claim 3, further comprising:

2 an instruction unit for instructing to register at least a part of information of
3 the caller's information stored in said memory as ~~a specific~~ caller group

4 information,

5 wherein said light source emits a third color light when the caller's
6 information detected by said information detector coincides with the information
7 stored as the ~~specific~~-caller group information in said memory.

1 5. (Twice Amended) The telephone apparatus of claim 1,

2 wherein the caller's information stored in said memory contains at
3 least a telephone number.

1 6. (Amended) A telephone apparatus comprising:

2 a plurality of sub units,

3 an information detector for detecting ~~a~~-transmitted caller's information,

4 a caller's information memory for storing the caller's information detected
5 by said information detector,

6 a response information memory for storing the sub unit information of the
7 sub unit answering the call and the caller's information detected by said information
8 detector,

9 a sub unit specifying caller's information memory for storing the sub unit
10 information and the caller's information detected by said information detector when
11 the answering sub unit specifies, and

12 a controller,

13 wherein said controller, when detecting that the caller's information
14 stored in said sub unit specifying caller's information memory coincides with the

15 caller's information detected by said information detector ~~upon incoming~~, calls a
16 sub unit corresponding to the sub unit information being read out from said sub unit
17 specifying caller's information memory.

1 7. (Amended) The telephone apparatus of claim 6,

2 wherein said controller, when judging that the caller's information
3 stored in said sub unit specifying caller's information memory does not coincide
4 with the caller's information detected by said information detector in the case of
5 incoming call, calls all of said sub units .

1 8. (Twice Amended) The telephone apparatus of claim 6,

2 wherein said controller stores the sub unit information stored in said
3 response information memory and the caller's information in said sub unit
4 specifying caller's information memory, on the basis of the sub unit specifying
5 instruction signal from the answering sub unit.

1 9. (Amended) The telephone apparatus of claim 3,

2 wherein the caller's information stored in said memory contains at
3 least a telephone number.

1 10. (Amended) The telephone apparatus of claim 4,

2 wherein the caller's information stored in said memory contains at
3 least a telephone number.

1 11. (Amended) The telephone apparatus of claim 7,

2 wherein said controller stores the sub unit information stored in said
3 response information memory and the caller's information in said sub unit

- 4 specifying caller's information memory, on the basis of the sub unit specifying
- 5 instruction signal from the answering sub unit.